

P-407/M-88-598APPROVING INCREASE

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Barbara Beerhalter	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Robert J. O'Keefe	Commissioner
Darrel L. Peterson	Commissioner

In the Matter of Continental Telephone
Company of Minnesota, Inc. Proposing to
Increase the Charge for Handling NSF Checks

ISSUE DATE: October 14, 1988

DOCKET NO. P-407/M-88-598

ORDER APPROVING INCREASE

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On August 31, 1988, Continental Telephone Company of Minnesota, Inc. (Contel or the Company) filed a proposal with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) requesting authority to increase the charge for handling non-sufficient funds (NSF) checks from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

In its September 13, 1988 Report of Investigation and Recommendation the Minnesota Department of Public Service (Department or DPS) stated that the requested increase was reasonable.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission has examined Contel's proposal and finds that a \$10.00 charge for NSF checks is reasonable based on the costs incurred by the Company and is comparable to those of other telephone companies. Furthermore, a higher charge may also provide a deterrent for customers who submit NSF checks. The Commission concludes that the proposed change is appropriate and results in fair and reasonable rates under Minn. Stat. Sec. 237.06 (1986). The Commission will approve it.

ORDER

1. Continental Telephone Company of Minnesota, Inc.'s proposal to increase the NSF check charge from \$5.00 to \$10.00 is hereby approved.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Mary Ellen Hennen
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)